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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



**SUMMARY OF
ACTIVITY IN CUBA
1 JULY-31 DECEMBER 1968**

NPIC/R-31/69
MAY 1969

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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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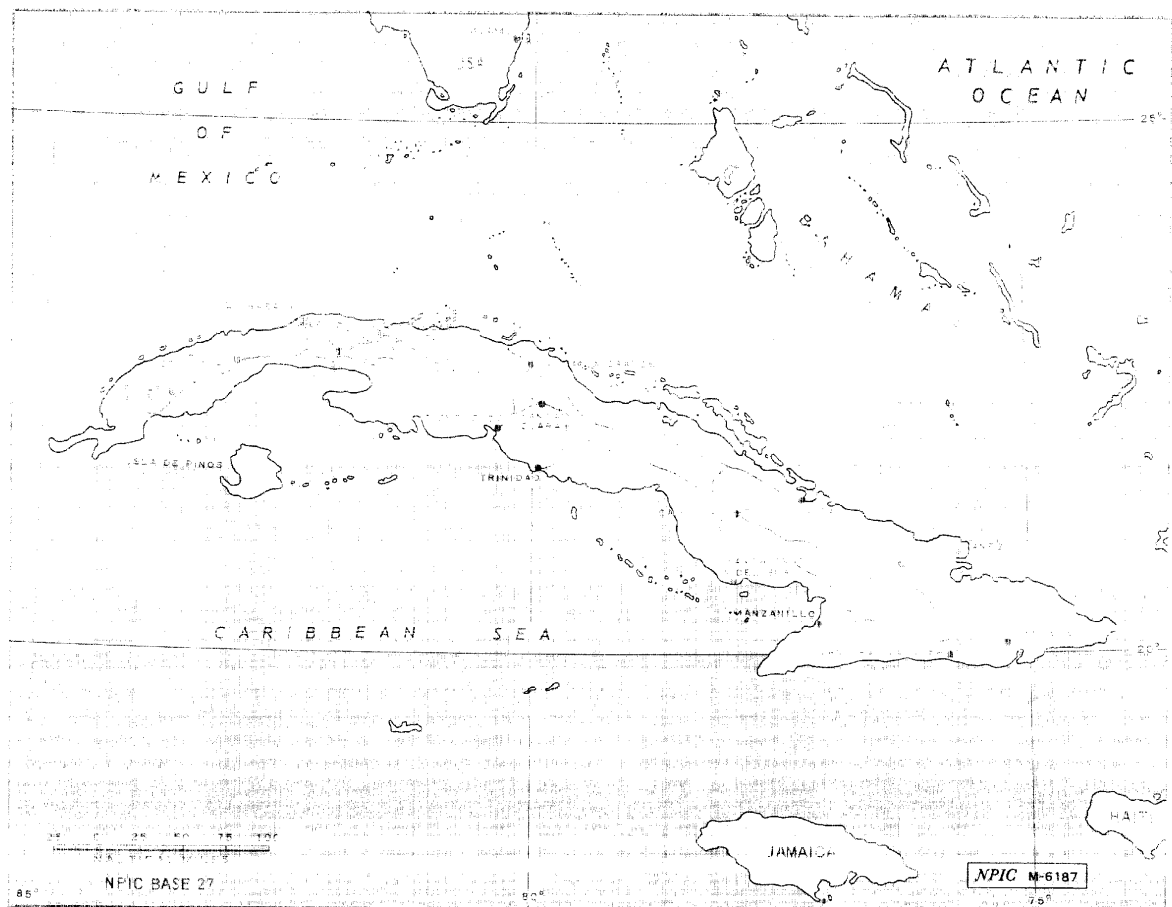


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes photographic intelligence information derived from the [REDACTED] missions flown over Cuba (Figure 1) during the period 1 July through 31 December 1968. It also updates information contained in a previously published NPIC report covering the period 1 January through 30 June 1968. 1/ Cutoff date for information contained herein is [REDACTED], the date of [REDACTED] which was the last mission flown during the reporting period.

Deployment of elements of Cuban naval, air, and missile forces to eastern Cuba during [REDACTED] constituted the most important single development during the six-month period covered by this report. An unusual deployment of naval combatant vessels to Oriente Province in eastern Cuba was observed on photography of [REDACTED]. This occurred at Santiago de Cuba Naval Base and Port on the southeastern coast of Cuba and at Antilla Port Facilities on the northeastern coast (Figures 2 and 3). Concurrently, an occupied, field-deployed SA-2 SAM site was newly identified on the coast 3.4 nautical miles (nm) southwest of Santiago de Cuba, and two SA-2 SAM sites in early-to-mid stages of construction were observed on the coast in the Moa/Punta Gorda area, east of Antilla Port Facilities. Also [REDACTED] four FAGOT/FRESCO fighter aircraft were observed in the Santiago de Cuba area at Antonio Maceo Airfield where fighter aircraft have been observed occasionally in the past, and three FISHBED fighter aircraft were identified at Ignacion Agramonte Airfield, Camaguey, where two possible FISHBED were observed in [REDACTED] and one was observed in [REDACTED].

By [REDACTED] most of the naval combatants had departed Santiago de Cuba and Antilla ports, ostensibly returning to their home ports.

ELECTRONICS ACTIVITY

The expansion of air warning radar facilities in the Santa Cruz del Norte Area continued to progress during the current reporting period. The following activity was observed.

Santa Cruz del Norte Air Warning Radar Facility (23-08N 081-55W). This facility was occupied when observed on photography of [REDACTED]. Radar was later removed from the facility, and radar mounds under construction were observed at the site on photography of [REDACTED]. Construction of the mounds was considered completed.

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25X1D Santa Cruz del Norte Air Warning Radar Facility 2 (23-08N 081-56W). A BAR LOCK radar and a ROCK CAKE or STONE CAKE radar situated on two newly constructed mounds approximately 0.6 nm west-northwest of the Santa Cruz del Norte facility were identified on photography of [REDACTED] as shown on Figure 4. This activity was designated as Santa Cruz del Norte Air Warning Radar Facility 2.

25X1D Photography of [REDACTED] revealed that the revetments of the two launch positions at Santa Cruz del Norte Cruise Missile Site had been converted from drive-in to drive-through type revetments (Figure 4). On photog-
 25X1D raphy of [REDACTED] it was noted that each revetment was occupied, one by a probable SPOON REST radar and the other by a possible SPOON REST radar and a generator van. These radars are approximately 1,450 feet east-northeast of Santa Cruz del Norte Air Warning Radar Facility 2 and are probably associated with the radars of that facility. All of these radars were probably present as early as [REDACTED] 25X1D

25X1D No missile-related equipment or missiles have been identified at Santa Cruz del Norte Cruise Missile Site since it was abandoned in [REDACTED] Vehicles 25X1D or pieces of equipment were frequently observed at the site during [REDACTED] 25X1D and a possible SPOON REST radar was reported within the westernmost former launch position in [REDACTED]

25X1D Santa Cruz del Norte TALL KING Air Warning Radar Facility (23-08N 081-58W). This facility, which was constructed and occupied during the [REDACTED] 25X1D
 25X1D [REDACTED] reporting period, remains occupied.

Cuba's air warning capabilities were further strengthened during the current reporting period by the following:

25X1D Vazquez TALL KING AW Radar Facility (21-02N 076-41W). This secured in-
 25X1D stallation was observed to be complete on [REDACTED] It consisted of a TALL KING antenna, an antenna building, a support building, and a generator building (Figure 5). Approximately 150 feet southeast of the antenna building were a probable height finder radar, one support vehicle, and a revetted structure.

25X1D Santiago de Cuba Air Warning Radar Facility 2 (20-05N 075-51W). A BIG MESH radar was identified at this facility on [REDACTED]

25X1D To complement LOW SIEVE surface search radars, Cuba has established radar installations utilizing the SHEET BEND radar (sometimes used as a target acqui-
 25X1D sition radar for a cruise-missile system). For example, at Santa Lucia Radar Site, one SHEET BEND radar, one possible radar, two probable generators, one van truck, one small building, and one medium tent were observed on photography of [REDACTED]

SHEET BEND radars have been used as replacement radars for the LOW SIEVE radars at Cienfuegos Radar Facility 2, Bahia Honda AW Radar Facility,

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and Varadero Radar Facility. Also, a probable SHEET BEND radar at Santiago de Cuba AW Radar Facility is being used as a possible backup for the LOW SIEVE radar at Santiago de Cuba LOW SIEVE Radar Facility.

MISSILE ACTIVITY

Guanabo Cruise-Missile Site was dropped from the active COMIREX listing in July 1968. No missile-related equipment has been identified there since [REDACTED]

25X1D

Two SALISH transporters/launchers and three SALISH resupply vehicles were observed at San Antonio de los Banos Airfield on photography of [REDACTED] the last mission flown during the reporting period.

25X1D

No significant change in the inventory of SAMLET or SALISH cruise-missile-related equipment was observed at the San Jose de las Lajas Storage and Support Areas and no missile-related activity was observed at former cruise missile launch sites.

In general, SA-2 SAM activity was normal during the reporting period. As many as 24 occupied sites have been deployed in Cuba from time to time. The heaviest concentration of sites protects the many strategic targets in the Havana area. Other sites are deployed in the vicinities of Santa Clara, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba. One active SA-2 site is situated on the Isle of Pines. Redeployment of sites within the various areas is not unusual and probably relates to the training of crews concerned with site construction or the operation of the SA-2 system.

As of [REDACTED] the close of this reporting period, there were 24 operational SA-2 SAM sites in Cuba, one of which was field deployed. Also, four additional sites were in mid-to-late stages of construction, and three sites were vacant. Locations and the status of the various sites are shown on the map on Figure 6.

The status of a majority of the SA-2 sites as reported at the end of the last reporting period remained unchanged. Only moderate activity was observed at the two SAM training areas, El Cano and Santiago de Cuba. No significant changes were observed at the five SAM assembly areas at La Esperanza, La Veguita, Santiago de Cuba, Santiago de las Vegas, and Torrens.

The following sites have been newly constructed or have shown a change in status during the reporting period.

Cojimar SAM Site (23-09N 082-17W). This site, reported as under construction at the close of the last reporting period, was occupied when observed on [REDACTED] and has remained occupied.

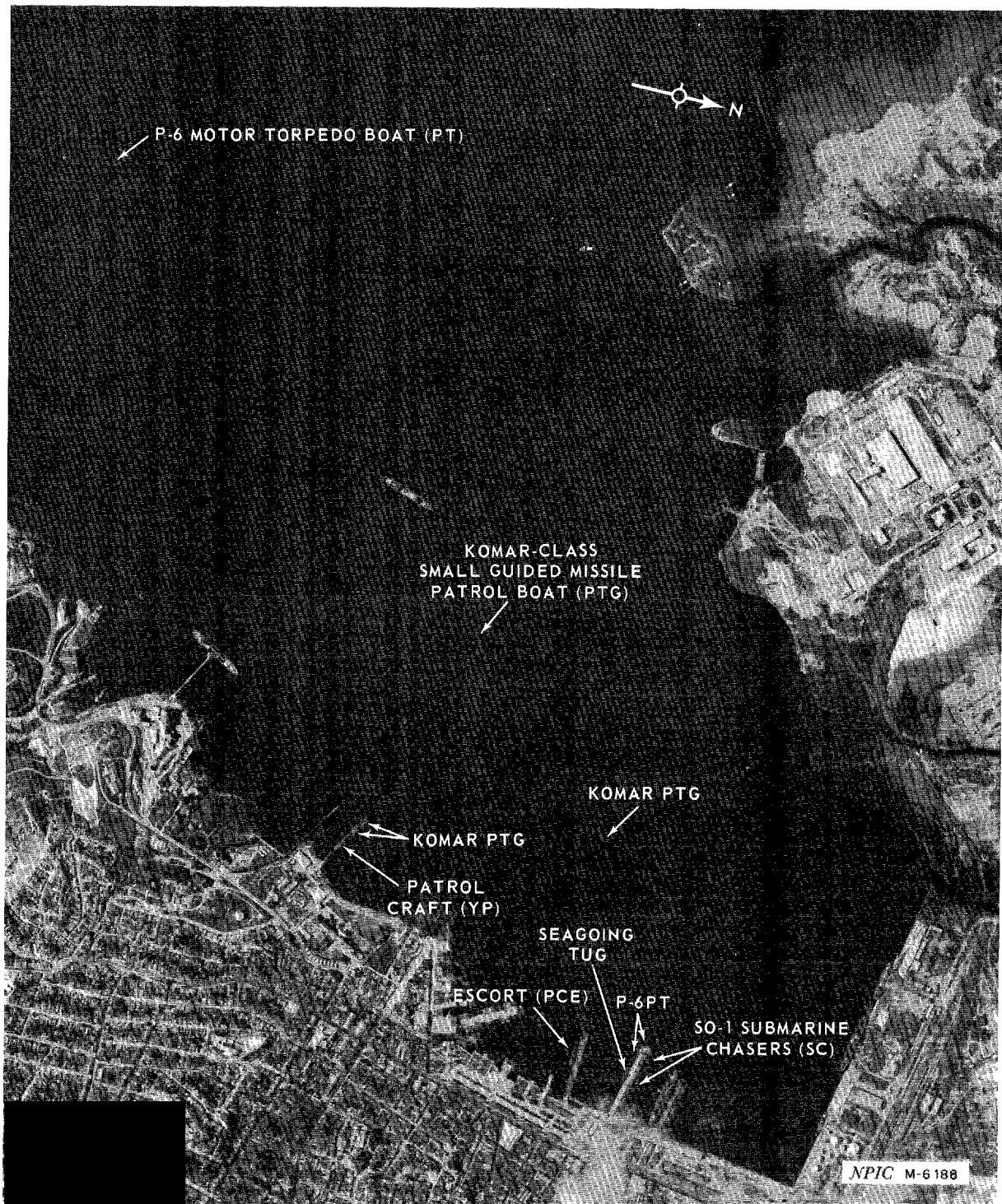
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Punta Ballenatos SAM Site A26-2 (23-04N 082-29W). This site, reported as under construction at the close of the last reporting period, was occupied when observed on [REDACTED] and has remained occupied.

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FIGURE 2. SANTIAGO DE CUBA NAVAL BASE AND PORT.

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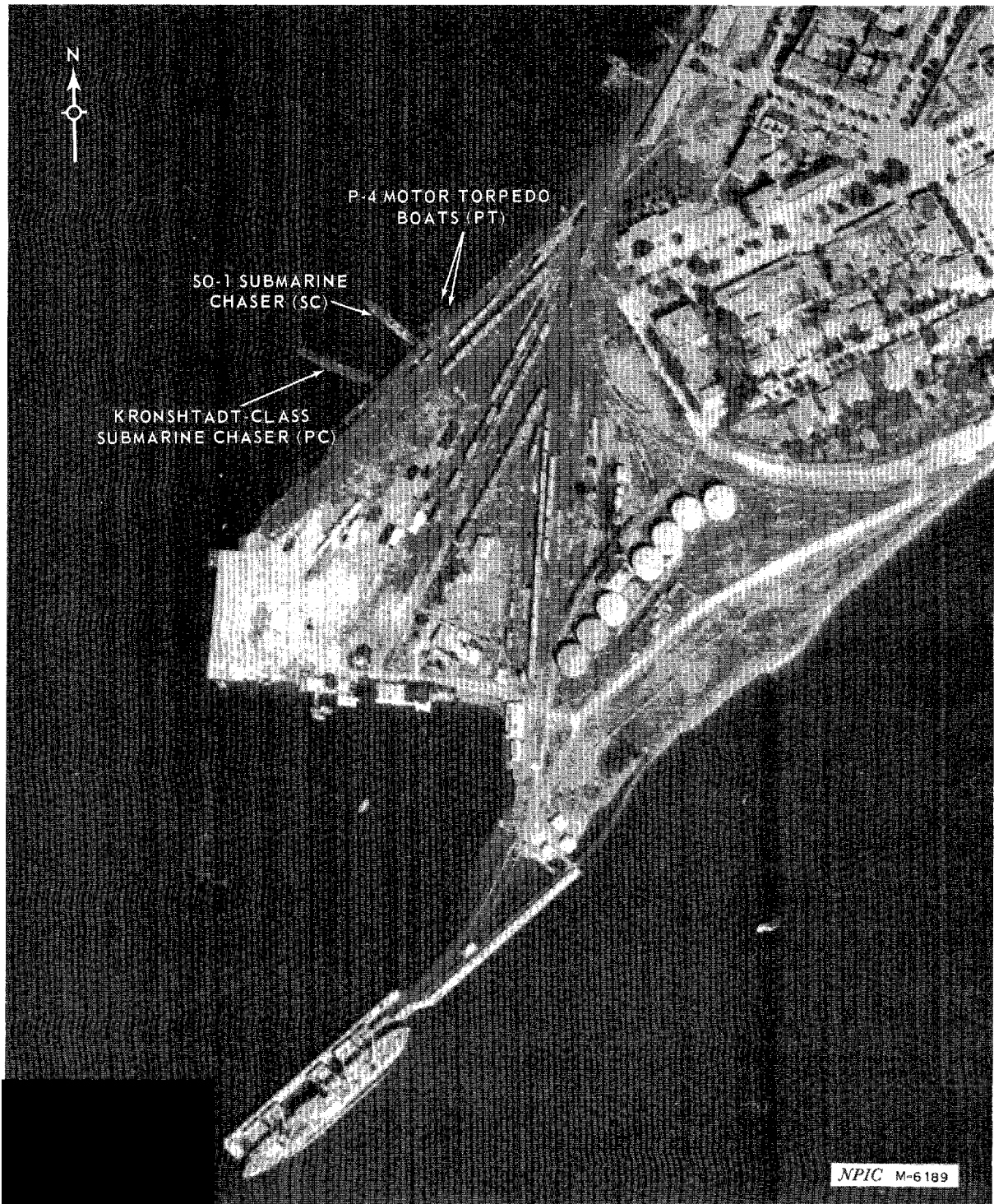


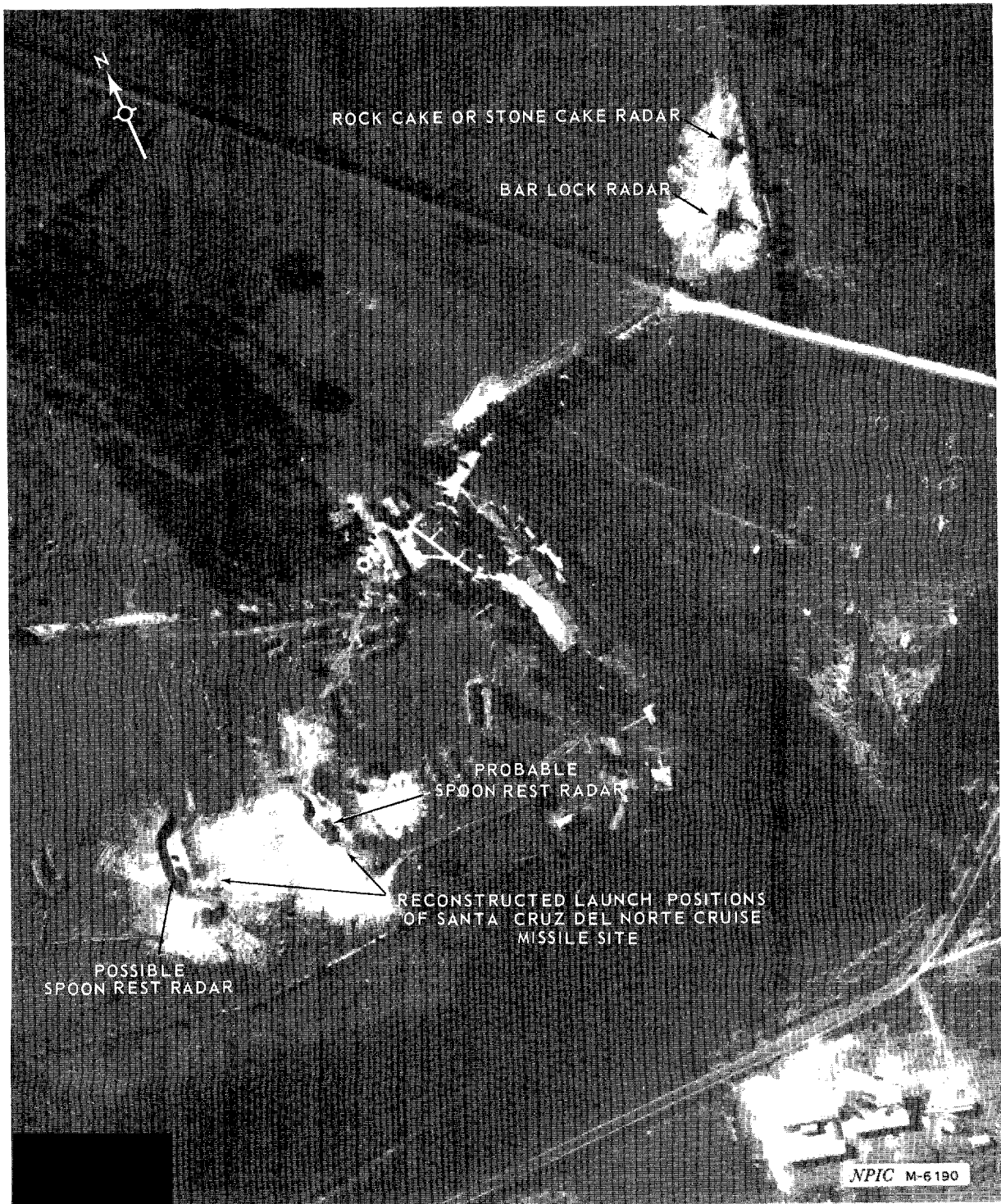
FIGURE 3. ANTILLA PORT FACILITIES.

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FIGURE 4. EXPANSION OF AIR WARNING FACILITIES, SANTA CRUZ DEL NORTE.

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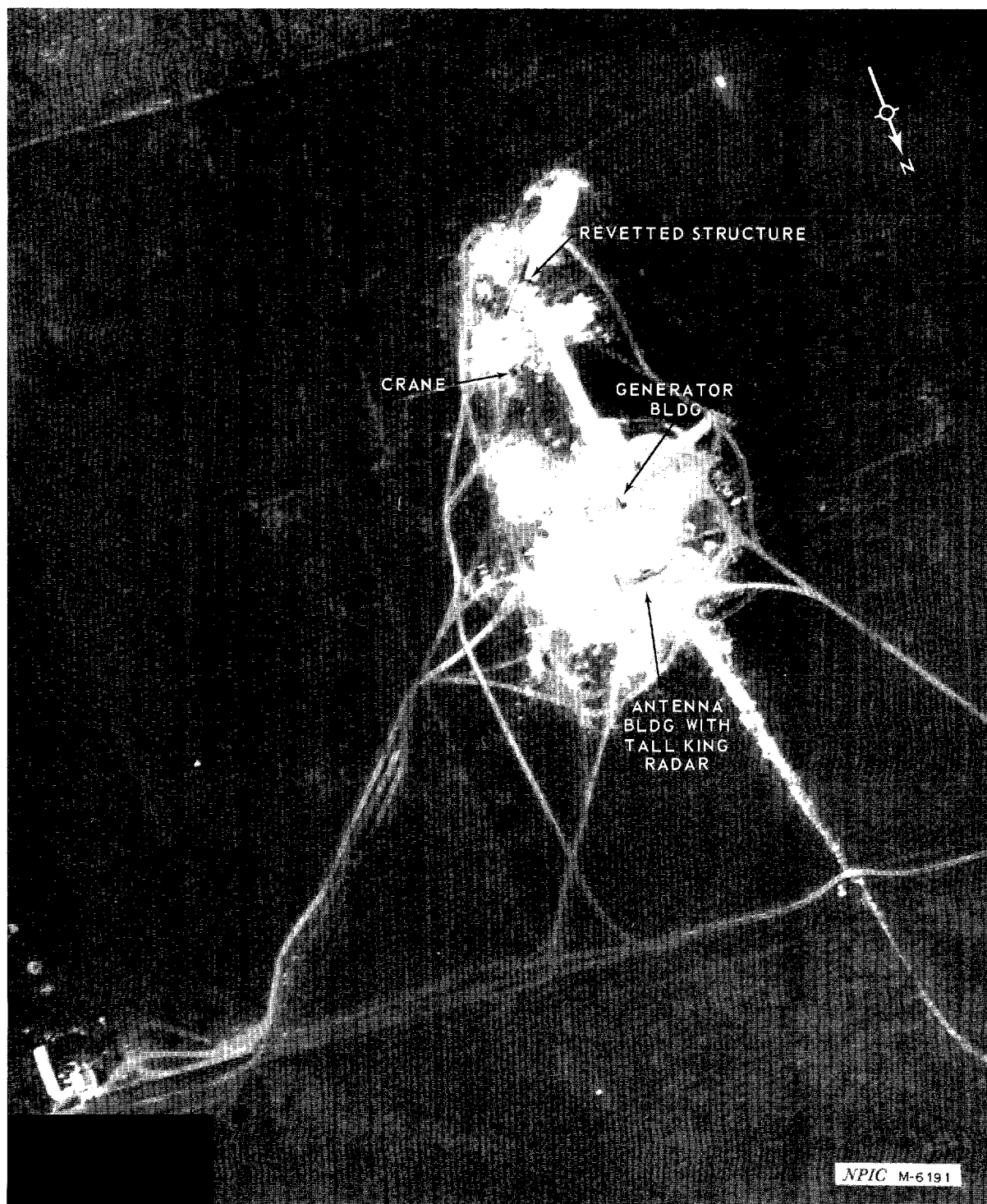


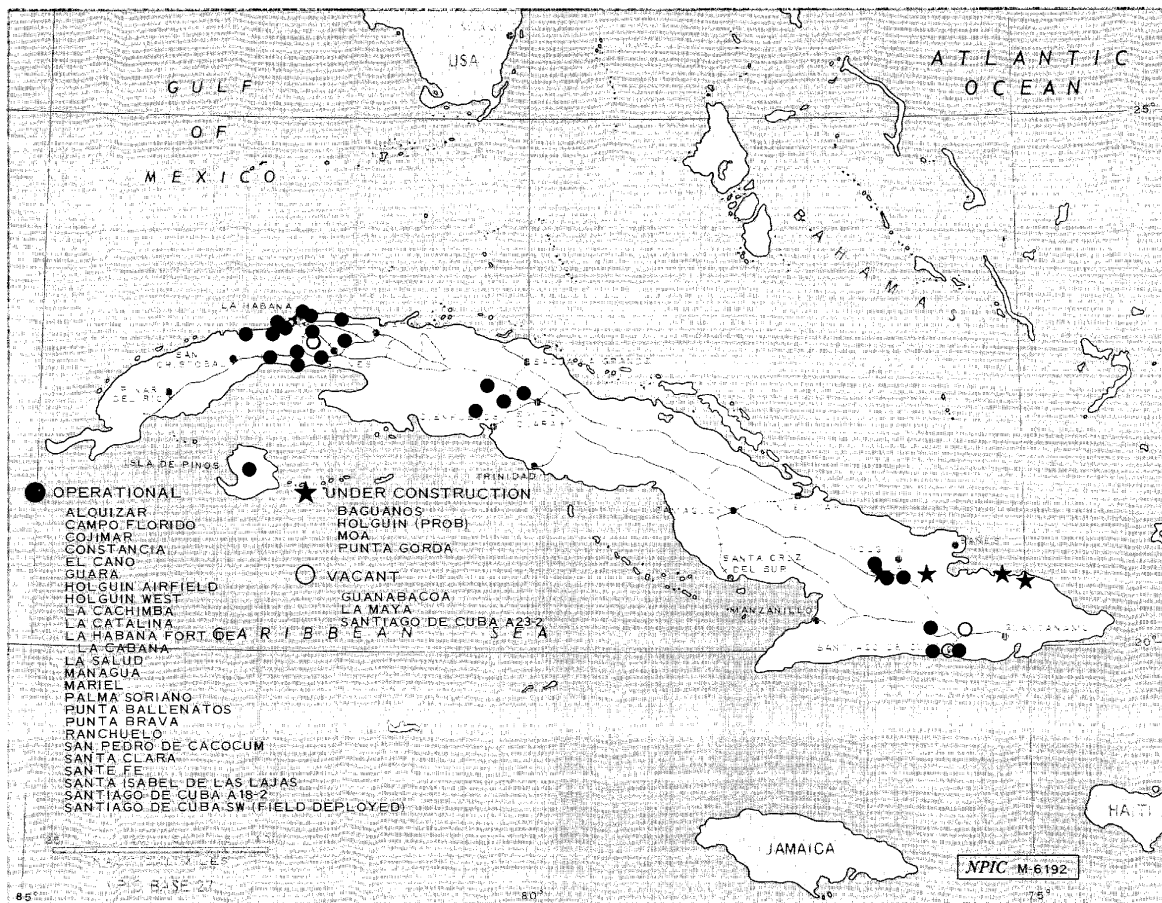
FIGURE 5. VAZQUEZ TALL KING AW RADAR FACILITY.

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FIGURE 6. LOCATOR AND STATUS CHART, SA-2 SAM SITES IN CUBA AS OF

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Santiago de Cuba SAM Site A18-2 (19-59N 075-49W). This site, reported as under construction at the close of the last reporting period, was occupied when observed on [REDACTED] and has remained occupied (Figure 7).

Santiago de Cuba SAM Site SW (19-58N 075-54W). This field-deployed SA-2 SAM site was noted on photography of [REDACTED] 3.4 nm southwest of Santiago de Cuba. It consisted of five unrevetted launch positions (three occupied by missiles on launchers and two occupied by launchers only), one probable unrevetted launch position, a FAN SONG radar with seven associated vans, and five canvas-covered missile transporters parked among trees approximately 0.5 nm northeast of the site. This site was also observed on [REDACTED] as shown on Figure 8.

El Cano SAM Site 2 (23-03N 082-29W). This site was reported as unoccupied at the end of the last reporting period. It was occupied and then vacated several times during this reporting period. When the site was occupied, a decrease in SA-2 equipment was noted at El Cano SAM Training Area, and when the site was vacant, a corresponding increase in SA-2 equipment was noted at the training area. It can be assumed, therefore, that El Cano SAM Site 2 is a permanent SAM training site affiliated with the El Cano SAM Training Area.

Guanabacoa SAM Site A14-2 (23-05N 082-15W). This site, reported as occupied at the close of the last reporting period, was vacant on [REDACTED] and has remained vacant.

La Maya SAM Site A35-2 (20-14N 075-40W). This site, reported as occupied at the close of the last reporting period, was vacant on [REDACTED] and has remained vacant.

Santiago de Cuba SAM Site A23-2 (19-59N 075-50W). This site, reported as occupied at the close of the last reporting period, was vacant on [REDACTED] and has remained vacant.

Baguanos SAM Site (20-49N 076-03W). This site was under construction on [REDACTED] and was still under construction at the close of this reporting period.

Holguin Probable SAM Site (20-50N 076-23W). This site was under construction on [REDACTED] and was still under construction at the close of this reporting period.

Moa SAM Site (20-39N 074-58W). This site was under construction on [REDACTED] and was still under construction at the close of this reporting period.

Punta Gorda SAM Site (20-38N 074-52W). This site was under construction on [REDACTED] and was still under construction at the end of this reporting period.

AIRFIELD ACTIVITY

Airfield activity was highlighted by the presence of fighter aircraft at Ignacio Agramonte Airfield, the deployment of fighter aircraft to Antonio Maceo Airfield,

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and the resurfacing of runways at three small airfields. Details are as follows:

Ignacion Agramonte Airfield (21-25N 077-50W). Three FISHBED, two FAGOT/FRESCO, one COLT, and 17 HOUND were observed on [REDACTED]

Antonio Maceo Airfield (19-58N 075-50W). Four FAGOT/FRESCO, three CRATE, one CAB, and one small straight-wing aircraft were observed on [REDACTED]

Photography of [REDACTED] revealed three FAGOT/FRESCO, one Britannia, two CRATE, and one Morava L-200.

Baracoa Airfield NW (20-21N 074-30W). Resurfacing of the runway was first observed on [REDACTED] Photography of [REDACTED] revealed that the runway was being resurfaced with concrete.

Moa Airfield (20-39N 074-55W). The runway was being extended and resurfaced when observed on [REDACTED]

Sancti Spiritus Airfield (21-58N 079-26W). The runway was being resurfaced with asphalt when observed on [REDACTED]

NAVAL AND PORT ACTIVITY

Naval activity was highlighted by the deployment of combatants to Antilla Port and Santiago de Cuba in [REDACTED] (Figures 2 and 3), as noted in the introduction of this report. The entire Cuban inventory of Komar-class small guided-missile patrol boats (PTG) was observed on [REDACTED] when 15 were noted at Cabanas and three at Havana. A probable STYX missile training and storage site was identified near Cabanas on [REDACTED]

Naval order of battle observed on [REDACTED] photography was as follows:

Antilla Port Facilities (20-49N 075-44W). One Kronshtadt PC, two SO-1 SC, and two possible P-4 PT on [REDACTED] One Kronshtadt PC, one SO-1 SC, and two P-4 PT on [REDACTED] (Figure 3). Two SO-1 SC and two P-4 PT on [REDACTED]

Santiago de Cuba Naval Base and Port (20-01N 075-50W). One PCE, two SO-1 SC, four Komar PTG, three P-6 PT, one YP, one small unidentified combatant, and one seagoing tug on [REDACTED] (Figure 2). Photography of [REDACTED] revealed only one YP.

Cienfuegos Port and Naval Facilities (22-09N 080-27W). Two Kronshtadt PC, one SO-1 SC, eight P-6 PT, and one YP on [REDACTED] One Komar PTG on [REDACTED]

La Habana Port Facilities (23-07N 082-20W). Two Kronshtadt PC, three SO-1 SC, seven Komar PTG, one P-6 PT, three P-4 PT, one YPT (Soviet Poluchat-1), and one YDT (Soviet Nyryat-1) were observed on [REDACTED]

La Habana Naval Ammo Depot Casa Blanca (23-08N 082-20W). One YP on [REDACTED]

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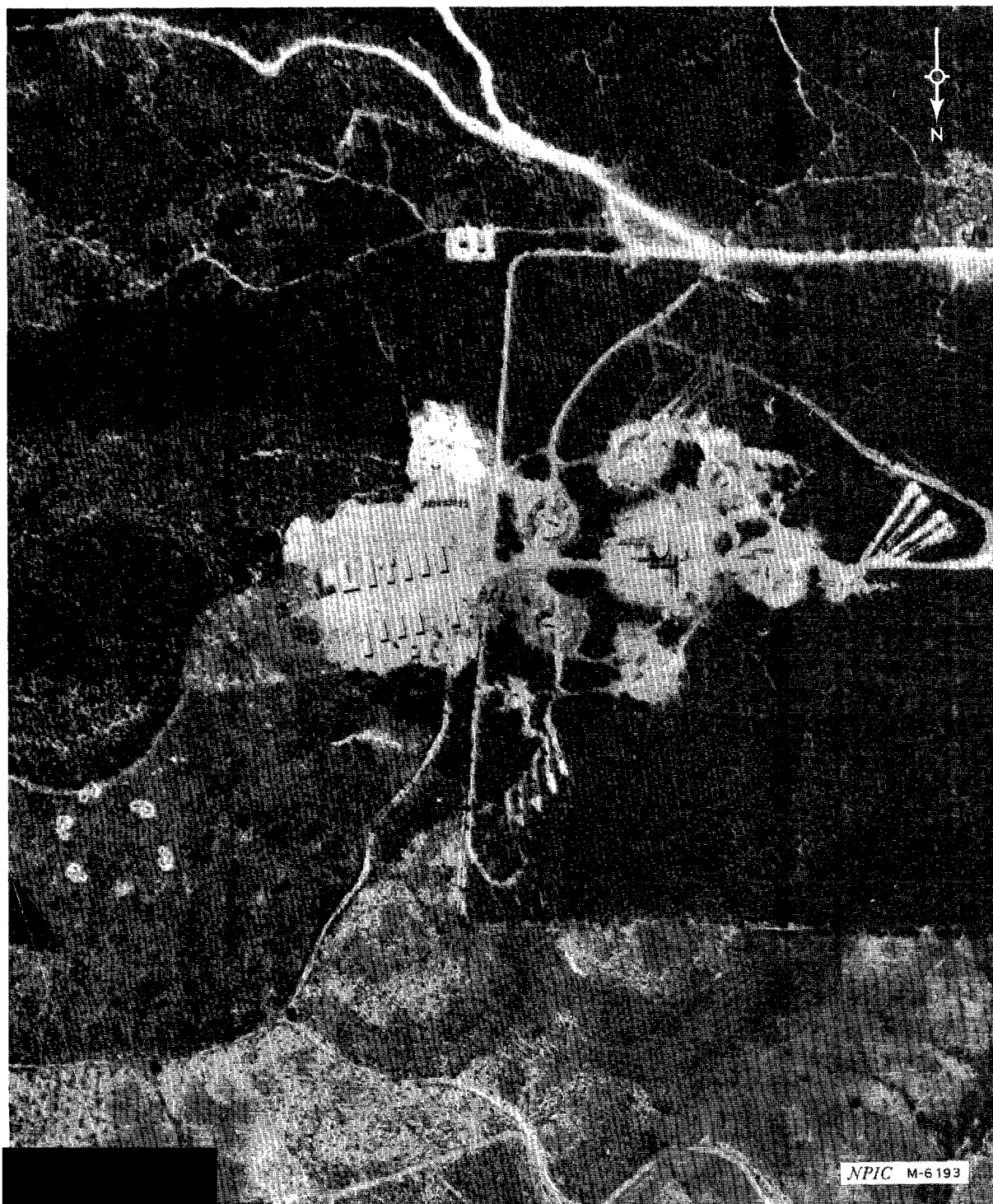


FIGURE 7. SANTIAGO DE CUBA SAM SITE A18-2.

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FIGURE 8 - SANTIAGO DE CUBA SAM SITE SW (FIELD DEPLOYED)

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25X1D Mariel Naval Base (23-00N 082-46W). Two Kronshtadt PC and one SO-1 SC
on [REDACTED]
25X1D Punta Ballenatos Naval Facility (23-05N 082-29W). Six P-4 PT and one YPT on
[REDACTED]
25X1D Cabanas Naval Missile Storage No 1 (22-57N 082-59W). Three STYX crates
on [REDACTED]
25X1D Cabanas Naval Missile Storage No 2 (22-58N 082-59W). Thirty-eight STYX mis-
sile crates on [REDACTED]
The Soviet Space Events Support Ship (SSESS), the Cosmonaut Vladimir Ko-
morov, was observed intermittently at Havana and Cienfuegos from [REDACTED] 25X1D
25X1D [REDACTED]

MILITARY ACTIVITY

25X1D Significant ground order of battle was observed at Managua Barracks and
School Area on [REDACTED] During this reporting period, military activity was
identified at three installations which have not been previously reported by NPIC.
Details are as follows:

25X1D Managua Barracks and School Area (22-58N 082-17W). Seven SALISH resupply
vehicle, 12 tanks or assault guns, six probable M-53 (Czech) 30mm twin AAA
guns, ten canvas-covered probable FLAT FACE radars (in transit mode), six pos-
sible FLAT FACE radars (in transit mode), eight BTR-152 armored personnel
carriers (APC), one BTR-60P APC, 14 cargo trucks, and numerous other vehicles
or pieces of equipment were observed on [REDACTED]

25X1D Guanabacoa Military Camp SE (23-06N 082-15W). This secured facility is 3 nm
southeast of Guanabacoa and consists of one administration building, 16 probable
officers' quarters, four barracks, four vehicle maintenance or repair buildings, and
eight support buildings. Four possible K-61 tracked amphibians, four van trucks,
five truck tractors, two utility trucks with two probable generator trailers, three
probable road graders, and 12 other vehicles or pieces of equipment were identified
on [REDACTED]

25X1D Artemisa Military Camp NW (22-53N 082-47W). This facility is 4.8 nm northwest
of Artemisa and consists of one administration building, one messhall, nine
barracks (two under construction), one vehicle maintenance or repair building,
nine large storage buildings, and ten support buildings. One occupied six-gun
AAA site, 16 tanks or assault guns, 32 cargo trucks, and 13 vehicles or pieces of
equipment were observed on [REDACTED]

25X1D Santa Ana Military Camp (20-48N 076-12W). This camp consists of two I-shaped
administration buildings, 22 barracks, five T-shaped probable messhalls, one mul-
tiwing possible hospital, 14 vehicle maintenance or repair buildings, ten support

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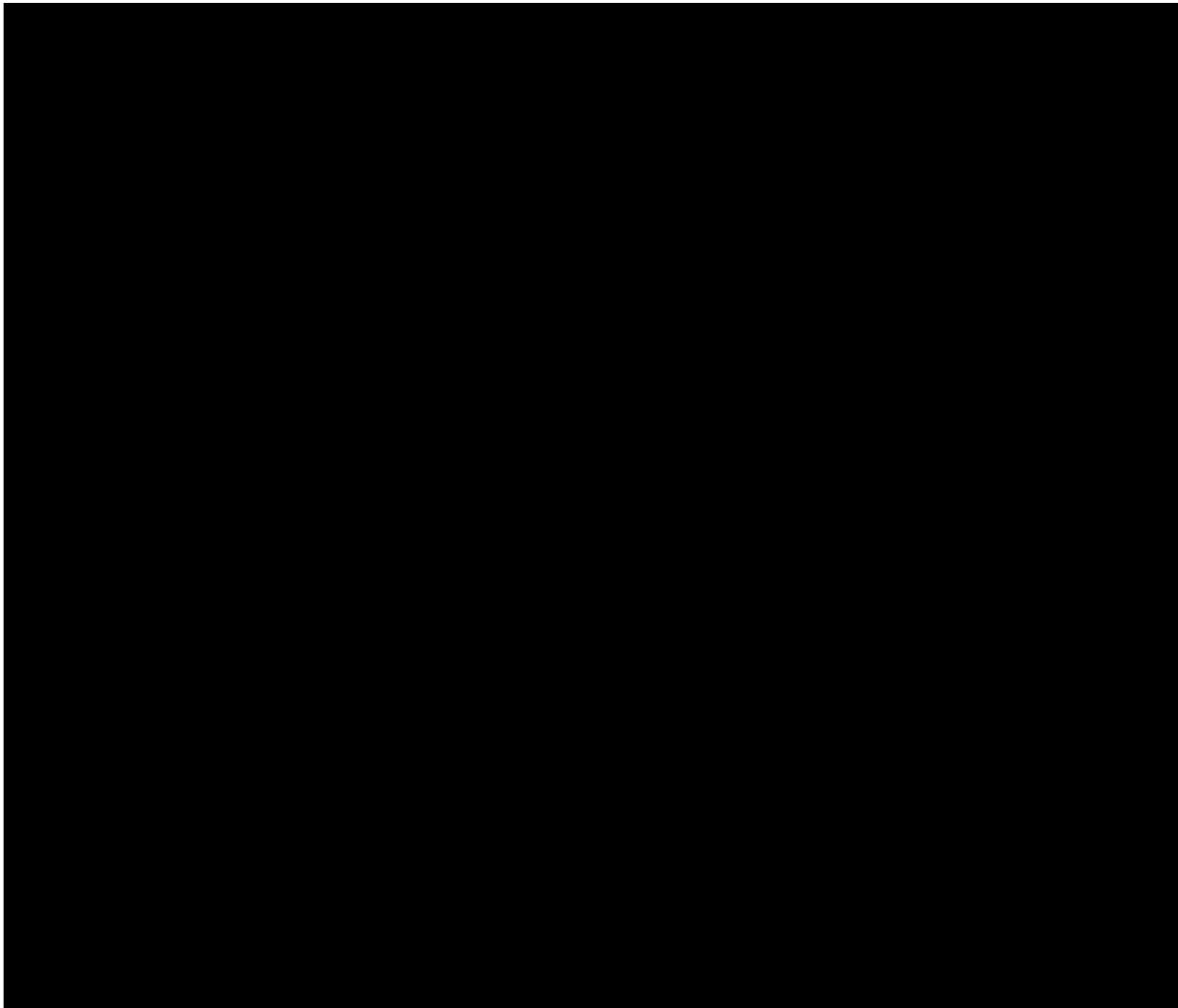
or storage buildings, four miscellaneous buildings, and a vehicle driver-training course. Thirty-two tanks or assault guns, 30 BTR-60P APC, six AAA pieces, 12 cargo trucks, and 17 vehicles or pieces of equipment were observed on [REDACTED]

25X1D

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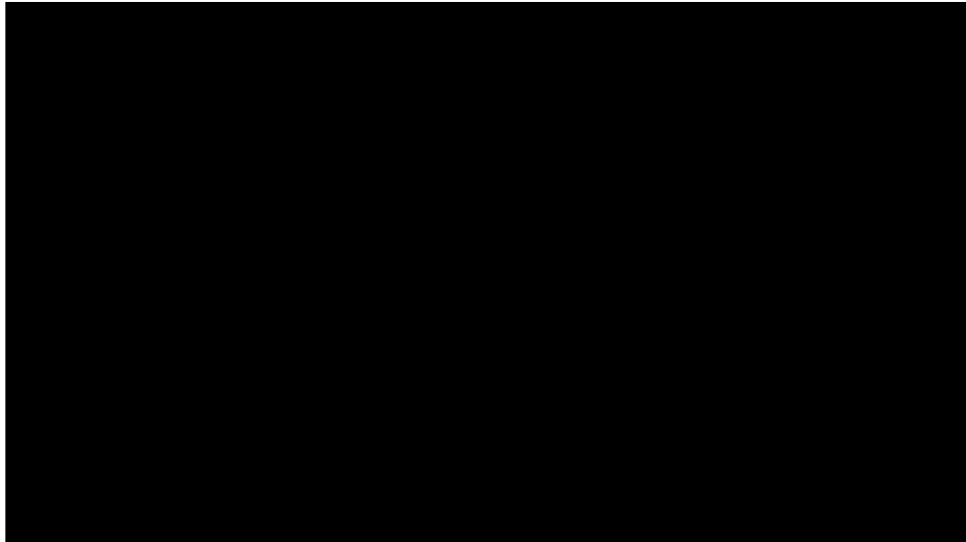


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